

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicants: Jian Qin et al.
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For: **ABSORBENT COMPOSITION**

Docket 12,975
Group: 1713
Examiner: J. Reddick
Date: 1 September 1998



Amendment – Response B

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in response to the Office Action mailed 01 May 1998, the following amendments and remarks are submitted for your consideration.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Twice Amended) An absorbent composition comprising a mixture of:

- B1
- a) an acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer having a pK_a between about 2 and about 12 wherein the acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer comprises acidic functional groups and has at least about 50 molar percent of the acidic functional groups in free acid form; and
 - b) a basic material;

wherein the absorbent composition exhibits a Free Swell value that is at least about 15 grams per gram of absorbent composition and a Time to Reach 60 Percent of Free Swell Capacity value of at least about 5 minutes and wherein the mixture is not a molecular level dispersion of the acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer and the basic material.

B2

Claim 7. (Once Amended) The absorbent composition of Claim 1 wherein the acidic water-swellaable, water-insoluble polymer is prepared from a base polymer selected from the group